



Shrewsbury Public Schools

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Office of Business Services

Report to the School Committee: FY16 Grants Update

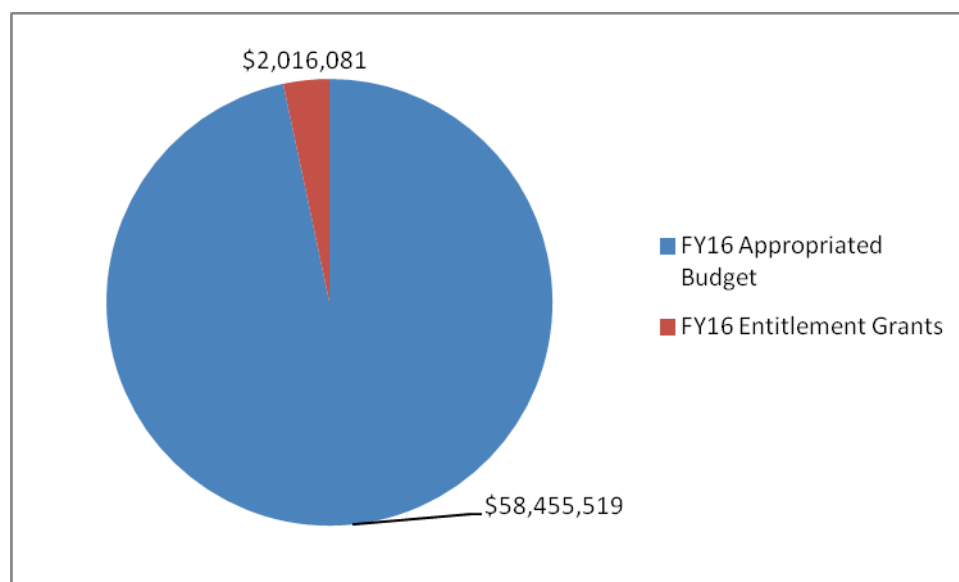
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Entitlement Grants

Federal and state entitlement grants are an important source of funding for our school operations. Entitlement grants are established and allocated at the state and federal level. Entitlement grants are noncompetitive and are awarded automatically on the basis of defined formulas that differ by grant. This report will show the amount of funding we are receiving for Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16), i.e., the 2015-2016 school year, and it will also provide comparisons to past years.

While relatively small in comparison to the appropriated budget, state and federal grants provide valuable resources for a wide variety of student supports and staff development. In FY16, most of the federal and state entitlement grants saw a decrease or remained flat. The one exception to this is the Title I grant which saw a dramatic 77.2% increase due to a temporary shift in the demographic profile of our community (refer to page 3 for further details). Overall, we saw a net increase of \$101,229 or 5.29% across all grants; removing the Title I grant from this calculation reflects a decrease of (\$46,854) or -2.45%.

The chart below illustrates the FY16 entitlement grant monies allocated to Shrewsbury in relation to the entire Shrewsbury Public Schools appropriated budget.



The table below shows the grants we are currently receiving, a brief description of what each is used for, and the amount we have been allocated for the current fiscal year.

Federal and State Entitlement Grants

Grant	Description	FY16 Amount
(Title IIA) Teacher Quality Grant	Federal funding for professional development. In the past, this grant offset a large portion of the salary of an elementary instructional coach. Because all the instructional coach/curriculum coordinators are now funded through the appropriated budget, these funds may now be targeted at important training of educators for various district initiatives. Specifically, for 2015-2016, this grant will be targeted towards the District's Project-Based Learning Initiative.	\$86,287 (FY15 \$85,455)
(Title III) English Language Acquisition	The federal allocated Title III grant enables Shrewsbury to offer targeted summer instruction for English Language Learners. It also provides various supports for the instruction of these students during the course of the year.	\$30,045 (FY15 \$28,420)
(Title III) Immigrant Grant	This federal grant was new to Shrewsbury Public Schools for the 2014-2015 school year. The eligibility for the grant is based on our annual SIMS report of students relocating to the district from foreign countries regardless of their knowledge of English language. Based on our most recent SIMS data, the district will not qualify for this grant for 2015-2016.	\$0 (FY15 \$7,950)
Special Education Entitlement Grant	Federal funding to assist with the costs of educating students with disabilities. Shrewsbury uses its funding to pay for some instructional materials and technology for students with disabilities. This year, the district will continue to use the majority of these funds to pay for the transportation for those students that have IEP's requiring specialized transportation, with the remainder supporting special education instructional supplies and materials.	\$1,408,178 (FY15 \$1,424,658)
Early Childhood Special Education Entitlement	Federal funding to improve instruction targeted at social and emotional relationships through professional development opportunities to preschool teachers, speech and language pathologists and school psychologists.	\$3,000 (FY15 \$8,000)
Early Childhood Special Education Grant	Funding through the Department of Early Education and Care (DEEC) to provide support for preschool special education programming. Shrewsbury uses these funds for a portion of the preschool director's salary and a portion of the preschool psychologist's salary.	\$33,890 (FY15 \$33,934)

Quality Full-Day Kindergarten	Funding through the DESE to support the improvement of full-day kindergarten programs. Shrewsbury uses its funding to provide classroom aides for full-day K classrooms. The full-day kindergarten grant does come along with several state mandates that impact teacher and instructional time. There is concern that, at times, these mandates can have a detrimental effect on student learning. In FY15 this grant suffered from mid-year 9C cuts resulting in a decrease of \$17,420 from the initial approved amount of \$79,800. The continuation of this grant in future years is highly uncertain.	\$62,380 <i>(FY15 \$62,380)</i>
(Title I) Supplemental Education for Disadvantaged Children	Federal funding to provide academic support to children in schools that qualify for assistance due to their socioeconomic status as measured by the rate of participation in the subsidized lunch program. In FY15 this grant was increased mid-year by \$956 from the initial approved amount of \$189,672. FY16 Title I allocations are based on 2013 federal census estimates of poverty, October 2014 caseload counts of children residing in locally operated institutions for neglected and delinquent children, and October 2014 caseload data on the number of children in foster homes. The profile of our student population is from a year in which a local hotel was operating as a state-run shelter. Shrewsbury had a high-point of 54 school-aged children experiencing homelessness accounting for the significant increase in funding for FY16. It is expected this funding will decrease in FY17 based on the FY15 demographics of our community. Given this, a significant amount of these additional funds will be directed towards instructional materials and professional development with an additional part-time tutor hired at Calvin Coolidge Elementary School.	\$337,755 <i>(FY15 \$190,628)</i>
Academic Support Services	Funding from DESE to support MCAS preparation and remediation for high school students at risk of failing MCAS tests. Shrewsbury uses this funding for after school programming to provide additional learning for students who qualify. This grant continues to be reduced by an average \$2,450 each year.	\$6,700 <i>(FY15 \$9,500)</i>
Special Education Program Improvement Grant	Federal funding to provide professional development in order to increase the effectiveness of the district's special education program. These funds will be spent on Orton-Gillingham training, Autism Spectrum Disorder training, Psychiatric consultations, Co-teaching training, and mentoring.	\$47,846 <i>(FY15 \$47,463)</i>
Total Grant Funding for FY16		\$2,016,081 <i>(FY15 \$1,914,852)</i>

The table below illustrates the allocation of State and Federal Entitlement Grant Funds to the Shrewsbury Public Schools over the past five years.

Grant	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	1 Year Difference	5 Year Difference
Teacher Quality Grant (Title IIA)	\$88,653	\$91,194	\$86,975	\$85,455	\$86,287	\$832	(\$2,366)
English Language Acquisition (Title III)	\$25,812	\$27,084	\$22,909	\$28,420	\$30,045	\$1,625	\$4,233
Immigrant Grant (Title III)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$7,950	\$0	(\$7,950)	\$0
Special Education Entitlement Grant	\$1,440,178	\$1,448,018	\$1,405,287	\$1,424,658	\$1,408,178	(\$16,480)	(\$32,000)
Early Childhood Special Education Entitlement	\$0	\$0	\$4,000	\$8,000	\$3,000	(\$5,000)	\$3,000
Early Childhood-Special Education	\$34,152	\$34,031	\$32,167	\$33,934	\$33,890	(\$44)	(\$262)
Full Day Kindergarten Grant	\$73,158	\$82,138	\$82,138	\$79,800	\$62,380	(\$17,420)	(\$10,778)
Special Education Program Improvement Grant	\$69,348	\$44,361	\$25,839	\$47,463	\$47,846	\$383	(\$21,502)
Education for Disadvantaged Children (Title I)	\$157,559	\$175,479	\$186,273	\$189,672	\$337,755	\$148,083	\$180,196
Academic Support Services	\$16,500	\$14,900	\$13,400	\$9,500	\$6,700	(\$2,800)	(\$9,800)
Totals	\$1,905,360	\$1,917,205	\$1,858,988	\$1,914,852	\$2,016,081	\$101,229	\$110,721
						5.29%	5.81%

State and Federal Entitlement Grant Summary

The above data show that, overall, federal and state grant funding for Shrewsbury has increased by 5.29% over a one-year period and 5.81% over a five-year period. The one year increase overall is significant, however, it is not anticipated that we will see a similar funding level or growth percentage in FY17. Reductions in our special education grants over five years is especially concerning as it puts pressure on our local budget to make up the difference. The uncertainty of the continuation of the Full Day Kindergarten grant requires discussion through the autumn and winter regarding the fee-based structure of the program should the grant no longer be available.

The chart below illustrates the current distribution of grants in FY16 by major grant area for both federal and state allocations. Grants addressing the delivery of special education and professional development of special educators make up the majority of the grants at 74%, which is consistent with most districts across the Commonwealth.

